



GNARC on Line Bulletin

Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

April 2005 Founded 1934 Number Four

Newsletter in [PDF Format](#). Get the [Acrobat Reader](#) Free / Official GNARC club web site located at: www.gnarc.org/

Club Repeaters: K1OF 147.390/ + 600 KHz PL of 110.9 Hz. & K1UHF 448.075/ + 5 MHz (PL-114.8) [EchoLink](#)[®]

Regular Club Meetings start at 8:00 PM and are held in the Community Room at the [Shop Rite](#) on Connecticut Ave. (Rte-1) in Norwalk Connecticut. Talk in: 147.390. The 147.390 repeater is now using a PL of 110.9 Hz.

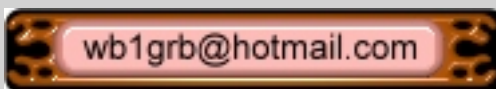
Next Meeting Wednesday April 13th, 2005. Program to be announced.

President: Toy Alladin, KA1WYQ / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H (203) 762-9302

Secretary: John Sabini, WB1GRB (203) 348-3983 / **Treasurer:** Gary Schwartz, K3OS.

April 2005 GNARC on Line Bulletin: John Sabini WB1GRB. Questions (203) 353-8422.

If you have any articles send them to John, WB1GRB. Subject: Newsletter.



(Feb 28, 2005) -- The ARRL Foundation Board of Directors has selected Paul Danzer, N1II, as the 2004 recipient of the Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award. [ARTICLE](#).

Club Calendar of Events	Classified Ads	Hamfest / Announcements
Membership / Dues	N1ZZ's Contest Lookout	BIOGRAPHY OF A HAM RADIO OPERATOR By Diran Varzhabedian, AB1K
Updates / Corrections	GNARC Repeater	Comments / Feedback ARTICLES

Feedline Analysis Program, [SWR PLOT](#) Check the [SWR PLOT](#) web site for Latest update.

By Fred Cunningham, K1FC. This program was written to serve both as a tool for those that want to optimize their antenna/feedline system and those who just want to better understand what effect the feedline can have.

Convert version 4.10 is free and easy to use unit conversion program that will convert the most popular units of distance, temperature, volume, time, speed, mass, power, density, pressure, energy and many others, including the ability to create custom conversions! <http://www.joshmadison.com/software/convert/>

Computer Corner by ROGER GILER, W1AGU. Overheat problem / Auto-Complete

My computer has started to act up. I wonder if it is time to replace it. After using it for about for 15 minutes, my mouse cursor freezes and the whole thing acts dead. When I turn it off for a little while, it is OK again. I now rush to read my e-mail until the mouse dies again. Any advice? Gerri K. <http://www.gnarc.info/ComputerCorner.htm>

President's Corner

Quite often some of the best made plans can run afoul for one reason or the other. Recently at our last general meeting we agreed to have Ziggy/N1ICL and John/WB1GRB produce the monthly newsletter on a trial basis. Since then Ziggy has informed me that he is unable to assist at this time because of recent domestic developments.

In light of these changes, I have undertaken the responsibility of assisting John until alternative arrangements can be arranged.

Our newsletter is a vital artery of this club and should be maintained in the very best manner possible. We are now in need of a volunteer to come forward to give some much needed assistance.

Highlighting some plans for the not too distant future, we have to decide on whether we want to be a contesting club for Field Day this year. If so we need to make serious plans for the event. Part of the planning should be undertaken ASAP and fine tuning would be undertaken at our June meeting.

I am also thinking about getting a set of sweat and T-shirts for sale as a fund raiser. Assuming that you will show the expected interest, a survey will be made at our next meeting to determine how many we need to order.

Our repeaters are functioning at their very best at this time and very soon the 2m repeater will be in the final phase of completion. Thanks to all the hard work that was done by Rich, K1OF and those that helped.

Announcements on the 2m repeater is about to be reactivated. Thanks to Al Urkawich (formerly KB1LI) voice and the guys at West Mountain Radio.

A SMILE NEVER MAKES AN ENEMY BUT OFTEN WINS A FRIEND
Toy/KA1WYQ



Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

ARRL Connecticut Section (CT)

GNARC ARES NEWS

In service to Norwalk and the nearby towns of

Darien, Easton, Fairfield, New Canaan, Weston, Westport and Wilton

Next ARES Nets are:

Monday April 4th at 8:00 pm on 147.390R, PL 110.9, NCS will be N1RRF

Monday April 11th at 8:00 pm on 147.300R, PL 100 (Danbury)

Monday May 2nd at 8:00 PM ON 147.390R, PL 110.9, NCS will be WB1GRB

No formal plans for the Norwalk Area have been made for the TOPOFF 3 Drill. If there are any surprise activations, I'll be on the wire and on the air with them.

Allan, NN1H, Co-EC Norwalk ARES Group.

Check the [Norwalk ARES web site](#) for latest updates and bulletins on ARES activities for the area.

Amateur Radio to Have Role in Largest-Ever Mass Casualty Exercise (Mar 21, 2005) -- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members in Connecticut, New Jersey and several other states in the Northeastern US are preparing to take part in what's being characterized as the most comprehensive terrorism response exercise ever conducted in the US. Sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security and intended as a realistic test of the nation's homeland security system, the exercise--TOPOFF 3--gets under way Monday, April 4, and continues through the week. ARES primarily will support the American Red Cross--the only nongovernmental organization with a formal role in the recently released National Disaster Plan. The Red Cross has main responsibility for mass care under the plan. Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator Chuck Rexroad, AB1CR, is in the process of lining up the 100 or so volunteers he estimates will be needed in the region for the mass casualty drill.

[Full Story](#)

Fairfield County Skywarn

Phil Berkowitz WX1CT. *Connecticut Skywarn* D.E.C. Check the Fairfield County Skywarn [web page](#).

Skywarn Training Schedule [Current Area Skywarn Training Classes](#)



Minutes of the Meeting 3/9/05

[Photos](#) of March Meeting

Toy started the meeting at 8:10 pm. Club officers introduced themselves. **President:** Toy Alladin, KA1WYQ. **Secretary:** John Sabini, WB1GRB. **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H. **Treasurer:** Gary Schwartz, K3OS.

The following members were honored for contributions made to the club during the past year.

Ned Bassick KA1CVV. Outgoing president

.Zigmond Fekete N1ICL. Outgoing Treasurer and repeater committee.

Curt Seaton K1FSM. For serving on the repeater committee.

Rich Roznoy / K1OF Repeater trustee and maintenance.

John Sabini / WB1GRB. Our current Secretary for a second term and publisher of the club's electronic newsletter.

Allan Valeo / NN1H. Second term V.P, sponsor of the annual foxhunts and public relations.

Del Schier / K1UHF. The 70cm repeater trustee and maintenance. A past V P.

Ed Ashway / K3EIN / Past president who saw us through the successful SAREX mission in 1995 and our current club web master. Ed maintains our current club web site.

Tim Walker / W1GIG. Several times V P of this club, fundraiser, and who has maintained a continuous liaison with the local government. Thank you Tim for many untold activities for and on the behalf of the club.

Don Hudson / KA1TZR. Past Treasurer and active fundraiser for the club. Don and Tim have become quite successful junk peddlers at the various hamfests that they frequent annually.

Gary, K3OS then gave a Treasurer's Report.

Allan NN1H then thanked everyone that participated in last months ARES net.

Allan then talked about an upcoming event called "TOPOFF". This is a disaster drill. This is a significant event, which will be in April. To enable effective planning, it is very important to contact our SEC (Chuck, AB1CR) at, <mailto:ab1cr@comcast.net> as soon as possible regarding your availability in this drill. For further details, check the <http://www.ctares.org/> website.

Rich, K1OF.said that there is a link system throughout Connecticut that does not link into Lower Fairfield County. We have been approached by CARA (<http://www.ctspectrum.com/>) and asked to provide linking into their ARES network. He told them that we could do that. He thought that there is a benefit for us to be able to link into this network. The closest link you can hear is new Haven, which many of use cannot get into. A lot of information for ARES goes out on that linked repeater and covers all of the state except lower Fairfield County.

Rich also asked about the club's spending policy and indicated that he would like to buy a linking radio for the repeater.

Gary, K3OS. Said, It was very clear that any large expenditure over two hundred dollars requires a club vote.

The members present voted to approve \$300.00 to buy a linking radio for the repeater.

Meeting ended at 8:45.

If any club member has any questions or issues with this newsletter please contact me. Do not talk to a third party. Talking to third parties can cause hostilities among members. I have always keep an open mind and will listen to anyone that has questions or ideas. If you would like to help with the newsletter please contact me. 203-353-8422. John Sabini, WB1GRB.

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New England Director Comments on GNARC Article

Hi John - A little feedback to Jay/NE2Q's article (editorial...) in the March "GNARC On Line Bulletin":

Jay/NE2Q offered some numbers and opinion about ham radio today. Jay often offers thought-provoking ideas and commentary but I didn't think they should go unchallenged.

His first statement was that there are more hams per capita "than ever before" and provided a series of numbers showing the number of hams as a percentage of the total USA population. Based in his figures you might conclude he was correct but if you look at the year by year figures (which he didn't have or didn't provide) what it shows is that the percentage peaked ten years ago in 1995 (at 0.27%) and has been declining ever since (and is about 0.22% today). [The data is below] A look at the web site at <http://www.ah0a.org/FCC/index.html> will give you more information - the actual number of ham licensees peaked in April 2003 at 687,860 and has now dropped below 669,000.

Much of the rest of his editorial is based on opinion, which everyone is entitled to!

Ham radio does have a real problem - the number of hams is declining. In CT MA and RI the number of hams has dropped about 10% in the last five years. Just by our own demographics (age) we will continue to see a decline, but that decline will increase in few years. Why? There is a fairly large concentration of currently licensed hams in the 50-75 year old range - the core of most clubs today - and they eventually become silent keys. The number of younger hams will not make up for that loss. In an average month there are only ten new hams per month in Connecticut, and the result is a decline in numbers overall. Does GNARC have a regular license class?

Jay is correct that ARRL membership and hamfest attendance has declined. He speculates as to why - but I don't buy his conjecture that "the average ham does not understand much of what appears in QST or what is being exhibited at hamfests." Maybe he has some research data that I haven't seen, but I think he's just wrong and underestimates the abilities of the average ham.

What ARRL has found by professional survey research is that hams are spending less time on the air these days, as much as 40% less than they did ten years ago. Add that to the lack of new hams and we are in for a rough ride. Last year there were about 16,000 new hams in the USA. We need a level of about 25,000 per year just to keep up with those leaving ham radio or who become Silent Keys.

I did an extensive test a few years ago and found that about 70% of all active hams were ARRL members. On VHF the figures were about 60%. It'd be great if those percentages were to increase but what it tells me is that we're doing quite well - and that the only way we're going to make any change in ARRL membership (and the overall number of hams) is to generate more newcomers. Contrary to Jay's opinion, I think the present entry-level exam (Technician) is actually harder than it needs to be (even ignoring the CW vs. no-CW debate) - it's certainly a lot harder than it was when I got my first license in the 1960s. 73 -- Tom/K1KI

Licensed US Amateur Radio Operators

	Hams	Pop. (M)	Hams/K
1925	16,500	114.5	0.14

1930	19,000	123.2	0.15
1935	45,000	127.5	0.35
1940	56,000	132.2	0.42
1945	60,000	141.7	0.42
1950	87,000	151.3	0.58
1955	150,000	164.3	0.91
1960	230,000	179.3	1.28
1965	260,301	191.3	1.36
1970	263,918	203.3	1.30
1975	260,091	214.8	1.21
1980	393,353	226.5	1.74
1985	415,856	238.7	1.74
1990	502,677	250.5	2.01
1991	545,548	253.4	2.15
1992	590,088	256.3	2.30
1993	634,017	258.9	2.45
1994	671,489	261.4	2.57
1995	705,994	263.8	2.68
1996	711,759	266.0	2.68
1997	676,506	269.0	2.51
1998	673,823	271.4	2.48
1999	677,392	275.0	2.46
2000	682,240	281.4	2.42
2001	683,037	284.8	2.40
2002	685,308	288.4	2.38
2003	684,059	290.0	2.36
2004	671,837	293.0	2.29
2005(Mar)	667,800	295.7	2.26

ARRL New England Division Director <http://www.arrl.org/> Tom Frenaye, K1KI, P O Box J, West Suffield CT 06093.

Join us before the meeting at John's Best Pizza on New Canaan Ave. at 6 pm.

[John's Best Pizza](#)

85 New Canaan Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut. 06850.

I will add more photos in next months *GNARC* Bulletin. This months **PHOTOS**.

February 2005 [Newsletter](#). March 2005 [Newsletter](#)

GNARC POSTAL ADDRESS



The UPS Store, 304 Main Av # 115. Perry Plaza ~ Norwalk, CT. 06850.

Courtesy of. C/o. The UPS Store. Greg Bryson, KA1NGF. Phone (203) 847-6166.



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J/S WB1GRB Thursday, March 31, 2005

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